

Borough of East Retford.



REPORT for the year 1920,

BY

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TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH
OF EAST RETFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my 6th Annual Report on the medical condition of the Children attending the Elementary Schools of the Borough.

The past year will be noted as having seen the appointment of a whole time School Nurse, and the step taken by the Committee has been conducive to nothing but good. Nurse Pilcher commenced her duties in April, and the figures given subsequently will show that by giving her whole time to the work, many more children have been seen and more minor defects detected and remedied. The following up has been much more efficient. In saying this, I do not disparage the valuable work done in the past and for the first quarter of the year by Mrs. Collins, who worked most loyally and hard, but being only part time she had not the opportunity to do all she wished.

Mrs. Collins' resignation was in many ways a loss to the Town. She was most eager and willing, and was liked by all with whom she came in contact, and did far more than could reasonably have been expected of her.

Nurse Pilcher left us to take another post at Bedford in November, and the Committee have been fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Marr as School Nurse. Mrs. Marr was formerly with the Education Committee of Sheffield as School Nurse, where she had considerable experience.

Arrangements have been made during the year for a School Dental Clinic, the Committee having been successful in negotiating with the Managing Committee of the Retford Hospital for the use of the Dispensary on certain afternoons for the purpose. Mr. L. A. Mackley, L.D.S., R.C.S., has been appointed part time Dentist. It is hoped that the Clinic will be working in the early months of the year.

At this Clinic, it is proposed that only the entrants will be dealt with to commence with, and that they will be followed up and re-examined yearly, together with the new entrants, so that the work will increase as time goes on.

A want which is increasingly felt is a more suitable room for an Ophthalmic Clinic; the present room in the Wesleyan School is really too small, and there is insufficient accommodation for the children being examined and those awaiting their turn, and for the Optician who measures for spectacles. I have inspected various suggested rooms for this purpose and have found one suitable, if arrangements can be made to obtain the use of it.

Another much felt want is a room where the School Nurse can see children and attend to minor ailments, and I hope that this will be found in the new Central School.

When a new School is built, there should be provided a room designed with a view to medical inspection and a waiting room ; the present method of examination in one of the ordinary schoolrooms surrendered for the occasion has many inconveniences both to the medical examiner and to the remainder of the school, who are a room short at these times.

The Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory, and the caretakers appear to carry out their work well.

Ventilation is fairly good and improvements have been carried out in the National Girls' School remarked upon in my last report. The heating has been maintained in spite of the troubles we have been through. In the National Infants' School there was trouble through the breaking down of the apparatus, but this was remedied as soon as possible.

The playgrounds are sufficient in size, dry and asphalted. The lighting of the schools is good, but in the Council School and in the large room at St. Saviour's the scholars sit with their backs to the light, which is very undesirable and leads to defective eyesight and other troubles.

The furniture in some of the schools is of old pattern, and it is desirable that it be replaced by modern pattern desks as soon as circumstances permit.

I must again call attention to the pegs in the cloak rooms ; they are all too close together. This enables vermin from the clothes or cap of a dirty child to have easy access to the neighbouring garments. Great efforts have been made during the year to reduce the number of infected heads, but these efforts are to a great extent nullified if infection can take place so easily in the cloak rooms. The metal hanging hooks for hats should be 15 to 18 inches apart in the girls' cloak room and 9 inches apart in the boys'. It is desirable to have a separate cloak room for each class and to have the pegs numbered and to make the scholars keep to their own numbers.

The Medical Inspection.

During the year it has been possible to examine all the children in the routine age groups, and we have not been hampered in the work by school closure.

Table 1 A shows the numbers examined in each group and Table 1 B the numbers examined in groups other than code. The total number examined by me in the schools is thus shown to be 807. Besides this, there are a good many sent by the teachers to my house at irregular intervals to inquire whether they are in a fit condition to attend school, usually on account of some skin eruption or ringworm.

It was noticeable that the number of parents present at my examinations at the schools was greater than in previous years, and this applies to all groups. The greatest number of parents are present at the examination of the infants, as might be expected, and much greater interest is being shown in the inspections.

Clothing and Footgear shows a slight fall from the high standard found last year; this applies to all groups. It is noticed that the footgear is not so well attended to as the clothing.

Cleanliness of Head shows a deplorable falling away from the good results found last year, and is much more marked amongst the girls, as may be expected. Only 57·8 per cent. of the children had heads free from nits or lice, a little more than half, and the younger the children the worse the condition.

This refers to the routine inspection; the school nurse examined all the children for cleanliness of the head and found many cases of infested heads.

There were two prosecutions during the year of parents who neglected repeated warnings as to the condition of their children's heads, fines being inflicted in both cases.

Nose and Throat. The figures are very much the same as last year. 116 were found to have tonsils slightly enlarged, 53 much enlarged and there were 71 with adenoids. There were only 3 mouthbreathers discovered. Of these cases, 31 have so far been treated by the Authority and 6 otherwise. It will be seen that a considerable number have been treated in the Retford Hospital during the year, many of them having been cases left over from last year.

Rickets is a rare disease in the town, only three slight cases having been found. This is probably due to the ease with which fresh vegetables and good butter can be obtained, also possibly to the excellent water supply.

Nutrition is good on the whole.

TABLE OF AVERAGE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

School.	Entrants.				Leavers.				Intermediates.			
	Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
	H.	W.	H.	W.	H.	W.	H.	W.	H.	W.	H.	W.
COUNCIL	..	41'90	40'39	41'37	38'34	55'50	75'50	55'50	72'80	44'90	51'00	48'20
NATIONAL	..	42'00	38'86	41'20	39'36	55'20	72'70	55'30	72'20	46'26	49'68	49'00
WESLEYAN	..	42'21	34'46	41'63	33'33	56'30	67'10	51'20	70'10	46'80	48'70	47'40
ST. SAVIOUR'S	..	41'12	39'60	41'57	39'41	54'20	70'10	54'10	68'80	46'60	49'70	48'70
WEST RETFORD	47'20	47'50
ORDSALL VILLAGE	41'50	41'00	41'60	40'60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
AVERAGE	..	41'74	32'87	41'47	38'16	55'30	71'35	54'02	71'00	46'10	49'77	48'10

HEIGHT IN INCHES.

WEIGHT IN POUNDS.

Tuberculosis. At the routine examinations, there were three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 11 cases suspected, and 6 non-pulmonary cases found. Besides these there are others who have the disease and are not attending the schools, and there are a certain number of delicate children, who, although they have not the disease at present, are especially liable to contract it. All these children should be educated in an open air school.

Vision. Only 59·4 per cent. of the children had normal vision, 83 or 19·4 per cent. had defective vision not bad enough to require glasses, and 80 or 18·7 per cent. had vision so defective as to require glasses. There were 20 cases of squint; these are usually due in children to serious visual defect. There were besides 19 special cases examined as to vision. Of these 99 cases were referred for refraction and for 84 glasses were prescribed, 8 received other treatment and 6 left school.

The refractions are done at present in a room fitted at the Wesleyan School, and the Education Authority supplies the glasses and recovers the cost from the parents.

There were two prosecutions of parents who wilfully neglected their children's eyesight after repeated warnings. Fines were not inflicted, as they were the first cases brought before the Bench, but were dismissed on condition that the defendants paid the costs and had the children's eyes attended to.

Treatment.

For the treatment of defects the Education Authority pay a subscription to the Retford Hospital, and the children are treated there by the Honorary Staff. For this purpose the School Medical Officer receives 120 out-patient tickets and 12 in-patient letters, which are given to those needing treatment; there are in addition a number of children who are recommended for treatment who obtain tickets from other subscribers.

The defects dealt with and the number of children treated at the Hospital are shown on the following table.

TABLE.

*Showing Diseases Treated amongst School Children
at the Retford Hospital.*

I. IN-PATIENTS.

Abscess	...	1	Necrosis	...	1
Accident	...	9	Pneumonia	...	1
Appendicitis	...	2	Rheumatism	...	1
Glands of Neck	...	1	Tonsils and Adenoids		22
Meningitis	...	1			
Total					39

II. OUT-PATIENTS.

Abscess	...	1	Keratitis	...	1
Accident	...	22	Measles	...	5
Alopecia	...	1	Needle in Arm	...	1
Anæmia	...	1	Otorrhœa	...	4
Blepharitis	...	6	Pediculi Capitis	...	1
Bronchitis	...	7	Periostitis	...	1
Cardiac Disease	...	1	Phimosis	...	1
Carious Teeth	...	2	Phthisis	...	1
Catarrh	...	2	Pleurodynia	...	1
Chorea	...	1	Pneumonia	...	4
Corneal Ulcer	...	1	Sebaceous Cyst	...	1
Debility	...	7	Scabies	...	4
Dyspepsia	...	2	Septic Wound	...	8
Fits	...	1	Stomatitis	...	1
Fracture	...	1	Speech (defective)	...	1
Furuncle	...	1	Tinea Tonsurans	...	7
Gastritis	...	3	Tonsillitis	...	7
Glands of Neck	...	4	Tonsils and Adenoids		18
Goitre	...	2	Undefined	...	27
Impetigo	...	7			
Influenza	...	1	Total	...	168

III. OPERATIONS UPON SCHOOL CHILDREN.

For Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	46
Adenoids only	...	...	3

Mentally Deficient and Backward Children are not very numerous. In a survey which I made of these children, I found that there were only two mentally deficient and requiring treatment in a special school ; one other, an epileptic, is not at present in a fit condition to attend any school, but may improve as time goes on ; he is being watched. There are in addition about 25 children who, without being mentally deficient, are so backward that they should be in a special class both for their own benefit and for that of their companions. I regret that the County Council cannot at present deal with the mentally deficient, but hope that the difficulty the Council are having may soon be overcome and arrangements made with them.

The School Nurses during the year made 386 visits to the schools and 628 visits to the children's homes. At the schools there were 5407 examinations made for cleanliness ; nits were found in 1653 and head lice in 299 ; body lice were found present in 6 cases. There were 24 cases of ringworm discovered, of which 5 were cured and 19 are still under observation.

I am Medical Officer of Health as well as School Medical Officer, so that there is a close connection between the two services. School closure was necessary in the National School owing to the caretaker developing scarlet fever ; the school was thoroughly disinfected and re-opened at once.

There should be a weighing machine for each school in order to avoid damage in transit from one school to another. One of the machines was damaged during the year whilst being moved.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Stanway R Beale

TABLE I A.

AGE	ENTRANTS					INTER-MEDI-ATES	LEAVERS					Grand Totals
			4	5	6	7	Total		12	13	14	Other Ages	Total	
BOYS	86	21	4	111	74	68	9	1	12	90	275
GIRLS	85	16	10	111	81	55	20	..	12	87	279
TOTALS	171	37	14	222	155	123	29	1	24	177	554

TABLE I B.

		<i>Intermediates (other than "Code")</i>	<i>Special Cases</i>	<i>Re-examined</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Boys	...	45	66	15	126
Girls	...	39	55	17	111
Totals	...	84	121	32	237

TABLE II.
Showing Physical Condition of Children Inspected.

CONDITION.	ENTRANTS.			LEAVERS.			INTERMEDIATE GROUP.			TOTAL.		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent
TOTAL INSPECTED	111	111	222		90	87	177		119	120	239	
CLOTHING—Satisfactory	100	104	204	91.8	87	85	172	97.1	113	115	228	95.3
Unsatisfactory	11	7	18	8.1	3	2	5	2.8	6	5	11	4.6
FOOTGEAR—Satisfactory	94	103	197	88.7	81	85	166	93.7	107	111	218	91.2
Unsatisfactory	17	8	25	11.2	9	2	11	6.2	12	9	21	8.7
CLEANLINESS OF HEAD—Clean ..	63	38	101	45.4	85	47	132	74.5	83	53	136	56.9
Nits only	45	72	117	52.7	5	40	45	25.4	36	65	101	42.2
Pediculi	1	1	2	.9	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	.83
Skin Disease	2	..	2	.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLEANLINESS OF BODY—Clean ..	101	99	200	90.09	85	82	167	94.3	111	108	219	91.6
Dirty	3	2	5	2.2	5	5	10	5.6	8	12	20	8.2
Pediculi	7	10	17	7.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
NUTRITION—Excellent	36	29	65	29.2	58	45	103	58.1	80	91	171	71
Normal	54	60	114	57	21	30	51	28.8	28	20	48	20
Below normal	21	22	43	19.3	11	12	23	12.9	11	9	20	8.2
Bad .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
NOSE & THROAT—No defect ..	53	45	98	44.1	30	34	64	36.1	37	42	79	33
Mouth breathers .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	3	1.2
Tonsils slightly enlarged ..	27	33	60	27.2	9	11	20	11.2	17	19	36	15
Tonsils much enlarged ..	4	7	11	4.9	8	10	18	10.1	16	8	24	9.9
Adenoids	8	19	27	12.1	9	4	13	7.3	21	10	31	12.9
Glands	85	84	169	76.1	33	28	61	34.4	27	39	66	27.6
									120	121	241	37.7
									1	2	3	.4
									53	63	116	18.1
									28	25	53	8.9
									38	33	71	11.1
									145	151	296	46.3

TABLE II. (continued).

[illegible]

TABLE II. (continued).

CONDITION.	ENTRANTS.			LEAVERS.			INTERMEDIATE GROUP.			TOTAL.		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE—												
No disease ..	100	102	202	89	87	176	116	117	233	305	306	611
Blepharitis ..	3	5	8	1	..	1	1	1	2	5	6	11
Conjunctivitis ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Corneal opacities ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other disease ..	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
EAR DISEASE—No disease ..	108	107	215	90	86	176	119	118	237	317	311	628
Otorrhoea ..	2	2	4	..	1	1	..	2	2	2	5	7
Defective Hearing ..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TEETH—Sound ..	41	36	77	39	44	83	32	30	62	112	110	222
Less than four decayed ..	28	38	66	32	29	61	35	49	84	95	116	211
Four or more decayed ..	42	37	79	19	14	33	52	41	93	113	92	205
HEART & CIRCULATION—No disease ..	111	108	219	86	83	169	114	113	227	311	304	615
Organic disease..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	3	5	3	4	7
Anæmia ..	..	3	3	2	2	4	3	4	7	5	9	14
Other disease ..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	2
LUNGS—No disease ..	100	108	208	89	83	172	115	115	230	304	306	610
Bronchitis and Catarrh ..	5	2	7	..	1	1	2	2	4	7	5	12
Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	1	1	..	3	3
Tuberculosis suspected ..	5	1	6	1	1	2	1	2	3	7	4	11
Other disease ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	2
NERVOUS SYSTEM—No disease ..	109	110	219	90	87	177	119	119	238	318	316	634
Epilepsy ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	1
Chorea ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other disease ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2

TABLE II. (continued).

CONDITION.	ENTRANTS.			LEAVERS.			INTERMEDIATE GROUP.			TOTAL.		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent
VISION—6/6 each eye (normal vision) ..	..	..	..	..	57	50	107	60.4	72	74	146	61
Less than 6/6 but not less than 6/9 in one or both eyes ..	..	..	..	..	22	12	34	19.2	26	23	49	20.5
Less than 6/9 in one or both eyes (i.e., 6/12 or less and requiring treatment)	..	..	..	..	11	25	36	20.5	21	23	44	18.4
SQUINT ..	5	3	8	3.6	2	4	6	3.3	4	2	6	2.5
HEARING—Normal ..	108	107	215	96.8	89	86	175	98.6	116	119	235	98.3
Otorrhoea ..	2	2	4	1.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Defective ..	1	2	3	1.3	1	1	2	1.1	3	1	4	1.6
OTHER DISEASE OR DEFECT—												
Not present ..	..	..	..	..	90	86	176	99.4	117	120	237	99.2
Present ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	.56	2	..	2	.83
PARENTS—Present ..	93	91	184	82.8	29	28	57	32.2	69	73	142	59.4
Absent ..	18	20	38	17.8	61	59	120	67.7	50	47	97	40.5
DIRECTIONS—Given to parents ..	49	53	102	45.9	53	64	137	77.4	84	79	163	68.2
									186	196	382	59.8

TABLE III.

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area.

		Boys	Girls	Total
BLIND (including partially blind).	Attending Public Elementary Schools	..	I	I
	Attending Certified Schools	..	..	..
	Not at School	2	..	2
FEEBLE MINDED.	Mentally Deficient attending Public Elementary Schools	3	..	3
	Ditto attending Certified Schools	..	..	..
	Notified to Local Control Authority during the year	..	..	..
	Not at School	..	I	I
IMBECILES.	At School	..	..	..
	Not at School	I	..	I
IDIOTS.		..	..	..
EPILEPTICS.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	..	..	..
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	..	..	..
	In Institutions other than Certified Schools	..	..	..
	Not at School	2	..	2
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.	Physically Defective attending Public Elementary Schools	I	2	3
	In Certified Schools or Institutions	..	..	..
	Not at School	3	6	9
Delicate and other Children suitable for Open Air Schools, Heart Disease.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	10	20	30
	Attending Open Air or Certified Schools	..	..	..
	Not at School	4	6	10
DULL or BACKWARD.	Retarded 2 years	5	4	9
	Retarded 3 years	7	4	11

TABLE IV A.

Treatment of Minor Ailments.

DISEASE OR DEFECT.	Referred for Treatment.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN		Total.
		TREATED Under L.E.A.'s Scheme.	Otherwise.	
Skin—				
Ringworm (Head)	10	3	7	10
Ringworm (Body)	...	...	...	...
Scabies	3	2	1	3
Impetigo	11	7	4	11
Minor Injuries	1	1	...	1
Other Skin Diseases	14	9	5	14
Ear Disease	13	3	10	13
Eye Disease	9	8	1	9
Miscellaneous	21	21	...	21

TABLE IV B.

Treatment of Visual Defects.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.									
Referred for Refraction	Submitted for Refraction.				For whom Glasses were prescribed	Glasses provided	Recommended for Treatment other than Glasses	Received other forms of Treatment	For whom Treatment was not considered necessary
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme	By Private Practitioner or Hospital	Otherwise	Total					
100†	98	1	...	99	85	119*	8	8	6

† One Child left the L. E. A.'s Schools before being treated

* Includes 33 prescribed in 1919 and one renewal of broken lens

TABLE IV c.

Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Referred for Treatment.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN			Received other form of Treatment.
	Under L.E.A.'s Scheme.	By Private Practitioner.	Total.	
61	32	...	32	6

TABLE IV d.

Treatment of Dental Defects.

Referred for Treatment	...	...	45
Treated	...	...	42

TABLE V.

Summary of Defects as shown in Table IV (A, B, C and D).

DISEASE OR DEFECT.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN			
	Referred for Treatment.	Under L.E.A.'s Scheme.	TREATED Otherwise.	Total.
Minor Ailments	82	54	28	82
Visual Defects	100	98	1	99
Defects of Nose & Throat	61	32	...	32
Dental Defects	45	1	41	42
Total	288	185	70	255

TABLE VI.

*Summary relating to Children Medically Inspected at the
Routine Inspections during the year 1920.*

1.	The total number of Children medically inspected at the routine inspections				638
2.	The number of Children in (1) suffering from—				
	Malnutrition	...	...	...	...
	Skin Disease	...	...	...	20
	Defective Vision (including Squint)	...	...	...	163
	Eye Disease	...	...	...	15
	Defective Hearing	...	...	...	10
	Ear Disease	...	...	...	7
	Nose and Throat Disease	...	...	...	190
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tubercular)	...	...	...	296
	Defective Speech	...	...	...	6
	Dental Disease	...	...	...	416
	Heart Disease—Organic	...	...	...	7
	Functional	...	...	...	2
	Anæmia	...	...	...	14
	Lung Disease (non-tubercular)	...	...	...	14
	Tuberculosis—				
	Pulmonary—Definite	...	...	...	3
	Suspected	...	...	...	11
	Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	12
	Disease of the Nervous System	...	...	...	4
	Deformities	...	...	...	8
	Other Defects and Diseases	...	...	...	6
3.	The number of Children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)				15
4.	The number of Children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)				322
5.	The number of Children in (4) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)				246

